

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 217759

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O: SBUMBREY

APPROVED BY: S/S-O: LMACFARLANE

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R 020745Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217759

EXDIS, MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT USNATO 4749 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON SEP 1

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4749

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO DEFENSE, CINCLANT, USCINCEUR,
USNMR SHAPE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK

SUBJ: UK DEFENSE CUTS: FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH SYG LUNS

REF: USNATO 4668 (DTG 261728Z AUG 76)

1. DURING CONVERSATION AUGUST 31, SYG LUNS TOLD AMBASSADOR
THAT, PURSUANT TO THEIR EARLIER TALK, HE HAD PREPARED A
LETTER TO UK DEFENSE SECURITY MASON CONCERNING THE LATEST
ROUND OF UK DEFENSE CUTS (REFTEL). NOTING THAT UK PERMREP
KILLICK HAD DECLINED TO FORWARD TO MASON LUNS' EARLIER
LETTER TO KILLICK, LUNS SAID THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY PENNED
A FOUR-PAGE LETTER TO THE UK DEFMIN WHICH, INTER ALIA, (A)
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PAGE 02 STATE 217759

ATTEMPTED TO ELICIT AN ASSURANCE FROM MASON THAT THE LATEST

ROUND OF CUTS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT TURN INTO AN ANNUAL EXERCISE, AND (B) NOTED INFERENTIALLY BUT UNMISTAKABLE THAT REDUCTIONS BY OTHER ALLIES IN DEFENSE SPENDING RAISED THE RELATIVE CONTRIBUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, WITH CONCOMITANT POLITICAL EFFECTS. THE LETTER ALSO EXPRESSES THE VIEW THAT, IN LIGHT OF THE SOVIET THREAT, REDUCTIONS IN DEFENSE SPENDING WEAKEN DETERRENCE BY GIVING THE WRONG CUES AS TO WESTERN INTENTIONS.

2. LUNS' PRIVATE OFFICE REPORTED SUBSEQUENTLY THAT THE LETTER WOULD BE MAILED SEPTEMBER 1, AND WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTED TO PERMREPS. WE WILL, HOWEVER, ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN A COPY.
STRAUSZ-HUPE UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: CINCLANT USCINCEUR USNMR SHAPE
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